(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities—allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Export of sugar

1219. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governmnet is planning to permit export of sugar once again;

(b) whether this would lead to increase in the prices of sugar for the common man of the country;

(c) the details of sugar realization per acre of sugarcane; and

(d) the quantum of sugar production and consumption during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The ban on export of sugar has already been lifted by the Government from January, 2007.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Sugar Realization from sugarcane depends upon various parameters including yield of sugarcane per acre, quantity and quality of cane crushed, the process followed by the sugar factories, which varies from State to State.

(d) The quantum of sugar production and consumption during the sugar seasons (October-September) of last three years were as under:—

(Quantity in lac tons)

Season	Production	Consumption
2004-05	130.0	171.44
2005-06	193.21	183.21
2006-07	280.00	190.00

Amendment of Weight and Measurement Act

†1220. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to amend the old Weight and Measurement Act and provide for renewal of licence in three years instead of present provision of one year; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Validity of licence issued to manufacturer dealer or repairer of weights and measures is presently regulated by State Governments under their respective Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Rules. Central Government has circulated model Rules to State Governments which provide *inter alia* that a licence shall be valid for one calendar year but may be renewed for a period of five years on payment of prescribed fee.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.